

the blossom of unwelcome guests. And this may be extended to the flies also, which might reach the blossom on the wing, but are attracted rather to the glands beneath, to their own destruction. Those who have good opportunities of observing *Mentzelia ornata*, and its much more common relative *M. nuda*, are requested to investigate the matter, and ascertain whether this charge of cruel behavior is well founded.—A. GRAY.

FISSION OF LEAVES IN THE PEACH.—Mr. Henry W. Lothrop, an observant naturalist of Providence, has just brought me some leaves from a common peach tree (*Prunus Persica*), in his garden, which exhibit fission in a curious manner. On the same tree occur normal lanceolate leaves, others broader and barely three-lobed, some which are decidedly three-cleft, and some bifurcated in the manner so common in ferns. The last present a curious modification. What, in the three-cleft form, is the terminal segment, is here, in some cases, reduced to a minute leaflet, standing at right angles to the plane of the leaf.

That the phenomenon results from fission, and not from the fusion of two leaves, is shown by the position of the leaves, and by the continuation of the midrib in the simply lobed forms, to the normally acute apex. In some of the three-cleft ones, a vein rather stronger than the general pinnation runs into the lateral lobes. In the bifurcated examples, the midrib apparently divides at the sinus, giving off a branch to each lobe.—W. W. BAILEY.

*Supplementary Note.*—Since I forwarded an account of this abnormality, Mr. Lothrop, in whose garden the tree grows, has brought me some still more aberrant leaves. These are of the bifurcated type, with the odd leaflet borne in the sinus, but in these the leaflet is, as one might say, proliferous, bearing another beyond, or as if the first were constricted in the middle. The owner attributes the eccentricity of the tree to unusual manuring.—W. W. B.

THE DICHOGAMY OF *SPIGELIA MARILANDICA* is strongly marked, and is of the type of *Campanula*. The anthers connive around the style, the upper half of which is beset with pollen-collecting hairs, on which the pollen is copiously deposited: the elongation of the style now protrudes the pollen-laden portion, and the terminal stigma matures a day or two later. In the second flowering here in September the adjustment occasionally fails by the style elongating before the anthers discharge their pollen.—A. GRAY.